

Woodham Mortimer and Hazeleigh Parish Council

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES – TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024

Convened at Woodham Mortimer & Hazeleigh Village Hall at 7:30pm

In attendance: Parish Cllrs: Simon Brady (SB), Kim McDonald (KM), Pauline McDonald (PM), Stephen Pemberton (SP), Graham Harle. County Councillor Jane Fleming (JF).

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

Andrew Ritchings Clerk to the Council recording proceedings

62.24 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Parish Cllr Richard Britton was unable to attend due to vacation. District Cllr Simon Morgan sent apologies for not being able to attend.

63.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

SP declared a pecuniary interest associated with the Diversion of Footpath 17 Woodham Mortimer, that interest being the freehold landowner over which the Footpath aligns.

64.24 PROPOSED SOLAR FARM ON LAND NORTH OF MALDON ROAD

Presentation and Q & A's with representatives of the proposed solar farm. This item was cancelled by the developer so no representatives were in attendance.

65.24 PUBLIC FORUM

The member of public in attendance provided an update to current development proceedings at the site of the new crematorium.

66.24 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting 14 May 2024 as proposed by SP seconded by LC were approved as a true record of events by all Cllrs at that meeting.

67.24 PLANNING

24/00011/VAR – LAND OPPOSITE ST MARGARET'S CHURCH MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER - *Variation of condition 2 on approved planning permission 21/01276/FUL (Erection of a crematorium with ceremony hall, memorial arboretum and associated use of land, restoration of Coopers Monument, vehicular access, parking, landscaping, pedestrian crossing and diversion of footpath (PROW 269_17)* **LPA Deadline 09/04/2024. TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

CREMATORIUM HIGHWAY SIGNAGE – A representative from the crematorium developers sought Parish Cllr advice in respect to potential locations for highway signage once the crematorium comes into use. Cllrs suggested signs at Oak Corner and Morrisons Roundabouts, Fambridge and Mundon Roads, The Causeway approaching from Hatfield Peverel and the Langford roundabout., these suggestions will be advised to Essex Highways who ultimately will decide where respective signage is located.

24/00059/HOUSE – HIGHLANDS BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey front porch extension, including covered veranda and staircases. Alterations to fenestration including additional cladding.* **APPROVED BY LPA**

23/00292/FUL BARN AT OLD MILL HOUSE VINEYARD HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *Convert agricultural barn into vineyard manager's dwellinghouse with associated internal and external alterations, laying out of amenity area and planting of native hedgerows and trees.* **REF: APP/X1545/W/23/3327753 APPEAL DISMISSED BY PINS**

24/00125/FUL – LAND ON SOUTH SIDE MALDON ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolish existing buildings, redevelop site and siting of two additional mobile homes with associated facilities for Gypsy and Traveller use.* This was due to be resolved at the North West Area Planning Committee on 22/05/2024 and has been recommended for refusal by the respective Planning Officer. However it was removed from agenda shortly before the meeting due to the late receipt of a significant representation from the planning agent acting on behalf of an objector which has raised legal issues relating to the determination of the application. The Planning Authority have therefore decided to seek its' own legal opinion in order for members to be fully aware of the circumstances when determining the application. The report on this application will therefore be presented to the following meeting of this Committee on 19 June 2024. **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00229/FUL – SOUTHLANDS BRYANTS LANE WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Construction of stable barn with associated hardstanding and fencing.* **APPROVED BY LPA**

24/00284/FUL – ST FRANCIS POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings, erection of replacement dwelling, with associated landscaping, parking, refuse and cycle storage.* **LPA Deadline 22/05/2024 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00262/VARM – HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL LANE HAZELEIGH – *Variation of condition 27 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)) on approved planning application 22/00261/FUL (The construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure, including inverters, security cameras, fencing, access tracks and landscaping.) Variation seeks: - Inclusion of a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan as an approved document.* **LPA Deadline 03/07/2024 TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

24/00311/VAR – GOLF DRIVING RANGE BURNHAM ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Variation of condition 6 on approved planning permission 22/00482/OUT (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 18 dwellings with a provision for affordable housing).* **APPROVED BY LPA**

23/01181 – BARN AT HATCH HOUSE FARM BURNHAM ROAD HAZELEIGH – *Replacement of an agricultural building with a new self-build/custom-built dwelling in lieu of the deemed prior approval for conversion of a building into a dwelling subject of application 22/00158/COUPA* **LPA Deadline 17/04/2024. APPROVED BY LPA**

24/00366/FULM – LAND SOUTH WEST OF THE WARREN HACKMANS LANE PURLEIGH – *Proposed solar farm together with sub-station, ancillary buildings, structures, landscaping, emergency lighting and access.* **LPA Deadline 24/07/2024.** Parish Cllrs have no particular concerns associated with more energy efficient development proposals provided they do not have a significant detrimental effect on the surrounding area as per their support of the solar farm currently being constructed in Hazeleigh. The attention of the application had been raised by Purleigh PC and Cllrs would like to thank their neighbouring Council for bringing the application to The Council's attention but do not intend to submit any comments given the development is outside of its own parishes. **TO BE DETERMINED BY THE LPA**

HAMMONDS FARM – The Working Group 'No to Hammonds Farm' has contacted the Council seeking support in opposition to Chelmsford City Council's Local Plan Review site that has identified a potential 7,000 houses between Chelmsford and Little Baddow. Cllrs to review details in time for the July meeting.

68.24 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

JF advised that due to the pre-election period many meetings have been cancelled. Locality Fund applications are open again for this financial year. There is also money available from the Community Fund which is primarily aimed at youth, levelling up and climate change applications. GH asked if ECC are still promoting rural broadband roll out, JF to seek further information and advise GH. Cllrs were encouraged to ask parishioners their current experiences of connection capabilities. Some Highway matters were discussed as updated below.

JF departed from the meeting.

69.24 SOLAR FARM ON HALL FARM LAND HAZELEIGH HALL HAZELEIGH

There has been no response to the Clerk's email of 14/05/2024 requesting an update of the solar site's active date.

70.24 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Member led Local Maintenance Scheme – *Invitation for highway works applications.* No further schemes were identified for inclusion.

A414 Pedestrian Crossing – *measures to aid crossing the hazardous A414 Maldon Road.* This is now appearing on the new format Local Highways Panel of schemes as a design and initial investigation into 2 pedestrian refuge islands. It is noted as; due to rescheduled surfacing works and subsequent delay in a topographical survey meant the design could not be completed and a further £9,500 is required to finalise the design. LHP Scheme No. 6

Footway Defect A414 – *Foliage/soil restricting width of footway/pavement between Runsell Green Danbury and Woodham Mortimer Church.* (First logged by Essex Highways at site meeting with SB 14/09/2018. Added to LHP list and Footway Clearance Scheme by County Cllr Flemming - June 2023. This is also now on the LHP list as; Maldon Road A414 Footway Clearance Safety Measures, and is noted as in validation with the Design Team. LHP Scheme No. 36

Footpath 11 Hazeleigh (Dragons Path) – *width and gate restrictions.* Cllrs have received thanks from parishioner for their support with the issue surrounding Footpath 11. The kissing gate has been removed, all be it with an unsightly motorbike restrictor. The main gate at the Lodge Road end of the footpath remains padlocked and some parishioners are prepared to plant some small native trees, however concerns are raised that any replanting would be futile if vehicles are going to continue accessing the Footpath. It has been suggested the main gate should be removed and replaced with some kind of vehicular restriction. AR to contact Essex Highways for advice of the current situation.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) A414 Oak Manor Chelmsford Road. County Cllr Fleming to take forward with SB and the parishioner who has offered to fund the device.

Conduit Lane – *Poor surface conditions.* County Cllr Fleming has added this request to repair the road surface to the County Councillor Member Led Maintenance Scheme, AR to seek a schedule of works.

Bryants Lane – *Vehicle conflict from Claremont Garden entrance/exit.* County Cllr Fleming to arrange a meeting with interested parties to attempt to find mitigation measures that will lessen the impact of vehicle conflict affecting Bryants Lane residents.

Chimney Lane – *Weight restriction request signage.* The resident request for weight restriction signage is now appearing on the LHP list as; initial validation suggests an 'Unsuitable for HGV' sign be located. Estimated cost £6,500. LHP Scheme No. 22

Footpath 17 Diversion Order – (SP withdrew from discussions and voting). Following Parish Cllrs site visit and discussions with Maldon District Council Planning and Essex Highways Officers and developer representatives, all voting Cllrs resolved to WITHDRAW the Councils objection to the Order.

A414 Speed limit – Given the new developments along the A414, Parish Cllrs discussed the possibility of requesting the current 50mph speed limit from Oak Corner Roundabout be decreased so that the whole section from Morrison’s Roundabout to Oak Corner be restricted to 40mph, a formal request will be conveyed to County Cllr Fleming.

Highway Verge Clearance – SB advised that some verges are causing site issues and need cutting, it was mentioned that some residents and business cut some verges themselves. SB advised Cllrs to consider projects that would enhance the character of the villages. GH concerned about growth of hedge at the junction of Burnham Road/Lodge Road/Goat House Lane in Hazeleigh; resolved to contact resident and discuss potential cutting back to improve visibility particularly as it is expected increase use of Lodge Road when the A414 incurs periodic temporary closures for crematorium highway entrance works.

71.24 BUS SHELTERS - The work of removing graffiti from the bus shelters opposite Post Office Road and Oak Corner is set to be carried out on 21/06/2024. AR advised First Essex via their website on 03/06/2024 and continues to pursue a claim with the Councils insurance providers.

72.24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Balance of Accounts

Unity Trust Instant Access Savings Account	£9,519.27
Unity Trust T1 Current Account	£1,068.58
Total funds on deposit	£10,587.85

Authorisation of payments

Clerk emoluments (April-June 2024)	
PAYE Nett	£776.20
HMR&C	£194.00
Home working allowances (13 weeks)	£52.00
Bus shelter graffiti removal (Monthind Clean Ltd)	£533.76
Transfer	£1,000.00

The above balance of accounts, authorisation of payments and transfer as proposed by SP seconded by KM were approved by all Cllrs present.

Cllrs approved AR to contact relevant companies to quote for a new laptop computer.

73.24 INFORMATION ONLY

AR informed BT via their website on 03/06/2024 that graffiti has appeared on their green exchange box at the corner of Tom Tit Lane and the A414.

The following planning applications did not make the June agenda and will be discussed at the July meeting:

24/00424/HOUSE – WHITEGATES POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Single storey front extension. Single storey rear extension. Alterations to roof forms of exiting porch and rear projection. Changes to fenestration including blocking up windows and door, addition of new windows and doors. Alterations to existing windows, changes to external materials, removal of chimneys and new chimney. LPA Deadline 18/07/2024.*

24/00425/LDP – WHITEGATES POST OFFICE ROAD WOODHAM MORTIMER – *Claim for lawful development certificate for proposed flat roof dormer to rear roof slope with sky light. LPA Deadline 18/07/2024.*

Next scheduled meeting is Ordinary Council Meeting 09/07/2024.

Simon Brady (Chairman to the Council) 09/07/2024